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Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Plumas
National
Forest

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File Code: 2670
Route To:

Date: April 18th, 2013

Subject: Road and Area Closure: Little Grass Valley - Bald Eagle Territory

From: Earl Ford, Forest Supervisor *EWF*

To: File

After having reviewed the project file and discussing with my staff, I have decided to implement the seasonal road and area closure order for the Little Grass Valley – Bald Eagle Territory area from April 19, 2013 through July 15, 2013. The campground within the northern loop and the parallel scenic loop road will be closed to ensure Bald and Golden Eagle protection.

The bald eagle is protected by the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act (Eagle Act, 1940 as amended in 1962). On June 5, 2007, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service clarified its regulations implementing the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act and published a set of National Bald Eagle Management Guidelines (May 2007). This law prohibits killing, selling or otherwise harming eagles, their nests or eggs.

The Little Grass Valley bald eagle active nest is within the northern loop of the Wyandotte campground. Disturbance of the eagles is unavoidable if people enter this area and the scenic loop road which runs parallel to the campground. These two areas are within the distance buffer area as recommended in the Bald Eagle Guidelines. Activities in the closure area that are likely to disturb bald eagles include, but are not necessarily limited to, snowmobiling, camping, walking, picnicking, swimming and boat landing. I have therefore determined that this closure is necessary to ensure that bald eagles nesting at Little Grass Valley Reservoir are protected.

There is a signed Environmental Assessment (EA) supporting this action. Feather River Ranger District wildlife staff have reviewed the current status of bald eagles at Little Grass Valley Reservoir and determined that the circumstances are currently the same as those addressed in the EA. Feather River District's Public Services department has also reviewed this recommendation. The project file, which contains the Civil Rights Impact Assessment, the District Ranger recommendation letter, a map and the Environmental Assessment is located at the Feather River Ranger District office.

I have concluded that this decision may be categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) or Environmental Assessment (EA) under the National Environmental Policy Act. This action falls within the category identified in 36 CFR 220.6(d)(1) – prohibitions to provide short-term resource protection or to protect public health and safety – and does not require documentation in a decision memo, decision notice, or record of decision. Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 215.12(f), this decision is not subject to administrative appeal. I have



ORDER NO. 11-13-02
PLUMAS NATIONAL FOREST
ROAD AND AREA CLOSURE

Pursuant to 16 USC 551 and 36 CFR 261.50(a) and (b), and to protect the bald eagle, the following acts are prohibited within the Feather River Ranger District of the Plumas National Forest. This Order is effective from April 19, 2012 through July 15, 2013.

1. Going into or being upon the Bald Eagle Closure Area. The Bald Eagle Closure Area is located in Section 33, T22N, R9E, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian. The Closure Area boundary begins at the intersection of Forest Road No. 22N57YA and Forest Road No. 22N57Y; then continues due west to its intersection with the shoreline of Little Grass Valley Reservoir, then continues north along the shoreline for .93 miles, then continues due west back to the starting point, as shown on the attached map. 36 CFR 261.53(a).
2. Being on the National Forest System roads listed below and shown on the attached map:
 - a. Forest Road No. 22N57YA.
 - b. Forest Road No. 22N57YB.

36 CFR 261.54(e).

Pursuant to 36 CFR 261.50(e), the following persons are exempt from this Order:

1. Persons with a permit from the Forest Service specifically authorizing the otherwise prohibited act or omission.
2. Any Federal, State or local officer or member of an organized rescue or fire fighting force in the performance of an official duty.

These prohibitions are in addition to the prohibitions contained in 36 CFR Part 261, Subpart A.

A violation of these prohibitions is punishable by a fine of not more than \$5,000 for an individual or \$10,000 for an organization, or imprisonment for not more than six months, or both. 16 USC 551 and 18 USC 3559, 3571, and 3581.

Done at Quincy, California this 18th day of April, 2013.


EARL W. FORD
Forest Supervisor
Plumas National Forest

determined that there are no extraordinary circumstances associated with this temporary closure and the procedures for legal notice and opportunity to comment (36 CFR 215.4) do not apply to this project. Implementation of the decision may begin immediately.

Plumas National Forest Road and Area Closure
Little Grass Valley Reservoir
Roads and Area Closed
Order No. 11-13-02

